

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-04 OIC-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10

NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04

EPG-02 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

H-01 /115 W

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R 131140Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5612

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20366

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OECD, UN, PORG

SUBJECT: OECD OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 34857 (B) OECD PARIS 7142

(C) OECD PARIS 3850

1. FOLLOWING UP ON SEVERAL INFORMAL REMARKS BY SECRETARY GENERAL TO HEAD OF DEL THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN PURSUING OECD OBSERVER STATUS AT UNGA, MEMBER OF HIS STAFF RAISED WITH MISSION OFFICE ON JULY 11, THE REASONS FOR THE RENEWED STRONG INTEREST IN OBTAINING OBSERVER STATUS FOR OECD AT THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WELL BRIEFED ON PAST HISTORY OF THE QUESTION HE CITED FOLLOWING FACTORS AS IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR SUCH STATUS FOR THE OECD:

A) THE OECD IS BECOMING CONSPICUOUS AMONG MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT SUCH
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STATUS (COMECON, EC COMMISSION, GATT, IMF, IBRD, OAU, OAS, COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, ARAB LEAGUE, ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, ARE AMONG OBSERVERS).

B) THE OECD ALREADY HAS SUCH STATUS WITH THE MAJOR UN SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS (ECOSOC,

UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, AND ILO).

C) THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
ROLES OF THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEES
WITHIN THE UNGA HAVE CHANGED THE CHARACTER
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INCLUDE SERIOUS
DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.
OECD SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATION AS OBSERVER
AT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE
AND BENEFICIAL TO SECRETARIAT. THESE MIGHT
BE OCCASIONS WHEN SECRETARIAT MIGHT ALSO
CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO DISCUSSION IN ITS
OWN NAME.

D) AS IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON NORTH/
SOUTH ISSUES ENSUES, INCLUDING POSSIBLY
ENERGY, THE NEED FOR THE OECD'S PRESENCE AT
THE UNGA WILL INCREASE.

2. AWARE OF PREVIOUS OBJECTION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
ON BUDGETARY GROUNDS TO OBSERVER STATUS, ALEXANDER
EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE SYG TO
SET UP AN OFFICE AND STAFF, BUT SIMPLY TO ATTEND
MEETINGS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF OECD SECRETARIAT
IN THE SAME WAY HE ATTENDS IMF MEETINGS OR TO BE

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REPRESENTED BY APPROPRIATE SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL.

3. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS NOT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S INTENTION TO REPRESENT OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES IN UNGA MEETINGS, BUT TO REPRESENT THE SECRETARIAT ITSELF. NOR DOES HE ENVISAGE ANY OECD "CAUCUS" AT SUCH MEETINGS.

4. IN REPLY TO MISSION OFFICER'S QUESTION ON CHANCES OF OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES, ALEXANDER NOTED THAT BRITISH DELEGATION PREVIOUSLY AMONG MOST ADAMANT OPPONENTS, HAD AGREED TO REVIEW OECD OBSERVER STATUS WITH LONDON AND ASK FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONS, BUT HE HAD NO INDICATION OF HOW FAVORABLE THEY MIGHT BE.

5. COMMENTS: ALTHOUGH WE SEE NO OVERWHELMING CONVINCING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF OBSERVER STATUS, WE FAIL TO SEE SERIOUS ARGUMENT AGAINST IT. SECGEN VAN LENNEP IS OBVIOUSLY PUSHING THIS HARD AND WE
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PROPOSE TO TELL HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR INSTRUCTIONS (REF A) THAT IF A CONSENSUS DEVELOPS IN FAVOR OF OBSERVER STATUS WE WILL NOT STAND IN WAY.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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